United Nations

S/2010/539

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 October 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 18 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 16 October 2010 from Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security in the Commission of the African Union, transmitting a communiqué issued following the 245th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council. The letter was sent to me in my capacity as Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ruhakana **Rugunda**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

As you may be aware, on 15 October 2010, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union met at the ministerial level to review the situation in Somalia. The meeting took a number of critical decisions to enhance the ongoing efforts of the African Union, in particular through the African Union Mission in Somalia, with a view of improving the prospects for peace, security and stability in Somalia.

Needless to stress that a number of these decisions require the support and endorsement of the United Nations Security Council, which is scheduled to meet to discuss the situation in Somalia on 21 October 2010. I am forwarding herewith the communiqué of the Peace and Security Council meeting issued at the end of the meeting (see enclosure). I would appreciate it if you could share it with the members of the Security Council and the African Group.

I am counting on your active contribution, and indeed, that of the African Group in sensitizing and mobilizing the required support from the Security Council, in view of the urgency of the situation in Somalia and the need for renewed efforts to address the daunting challenges facing that country.

(*Signed*) Ramtane **Lamamra**
Commissioner, Peace and Security

Enclosure

Communiqué of the 245th meeting of the Peace and Security Council

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 245th meeting held at the ministerial level, on 15 October 2010, adopted the following decision on the situation in Somalia:

The Council:

1. Takes note of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Somalia, as well as the statements made by the representatives of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Uganda and Burundi as troop-contributing countries, the European Union and the United States of America;

2. Recalls all its previous decisions and press statements on the situation in Somalia;

3. Reiterates its commitment to respect for the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Somalia, and reaffirms its full support to the Transitional Federal Government. The Council reiterates further the commitment of the African Union to continue to provide political and diplomatic support to the Transitional Federal Government, work towards enhancing security to create a more conducive environment for the Transitional Federal Institutions to discharge their obligations, assist the Transitional Federal Government in the effective re-establishment of Governmental institutions, including security and police forces and public institutions, and facilitate humanitarian action, while providing, within its means, assistance to needy Somalis;

4. Welcomes the appointment by the Chairperson of the Commission, in line with relevant IGAD and African Union decisions, of former President Jerry John Rawlings of Ghana as the African Union High Representative for Somalia, and appeals to the Somali parties and all African Union partners to extend full cooperation to President Rawlings as he works to galvanize, both within and outside the continent, increased support for efforts to promote peace and reconciliation in Somalia. To this end, the Council encourages the High Representative to work in close cooperation and coordination with IGAD and the countries of the region, as well as with the United Nations and other African Union partners;

5. Expresses concern over the prevailing security situation in Mogadishu in particular and in Somalia in general and condemns in the strongest terms the unabating violence, human rights violations and other heinous acts of violence, including indiscriminate mortar attacks, suicide bombings and targeted assassinations against the Somali people, the Transitional Federal Government and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), with the guidance and support of foreign elements, as well as the spread of such criminal actions in the region and beyond as attested by the despicable Kampala bombings of 11 July 2010;

6. Expresses concern over the worsening humanitarian situation in Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia, marked by declining access, intimidation and attacks against humanitarian workers by al Shabaab and Hizbul Islam, in violation of international humanitarian law, and reduced funding for humanitarian activities. The Council pays tribute to all humanitarian agencies and workers in Somalia, expresses

appreciation to the countries and organizations providing support for humanitarian activities in that country, and urges members of the international community to respond generously and with the flexibility required to the Consolidated Appeal for Somalia;

7. Reiterates the commitment of the African Union to respecting the sanctity of human life, as articulated in the African Union Constitutive Act, and with particular reference to the African Union's efforts in Somalia, reaffirms the African Union's commitment to fully adhere to, and respect, international humanitarian law in AMISOM operations. In this respect, and as part of the overall efforts to better protect civilians, the Council encourages the Commission to mainstream the draft African Union guidelines for the protection of civilians in peace support missions, developed following the symposium held in Addis Ababa from 3 to 5 March 2010, into the activities of AMISOM as the Mission does its utmost to avoid collateral civilian casualties;

8. Further reiterates the African Union's commitment to respect for and promotion of human rights on the continent and, in this regard, welcomes the steps so far taken by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights regarding the situation in Somalia. In this respect, the Council urges the Transitional Federal Government to respond positively to the request made by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to send a fact-finding mission to Somalia to investigate human rights violations, so that the visit can take place in earnest;

9. Notes the efforts exerting in addressing the problem of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, including relevant Security Council resolutions, the current naval operations in the area and regional efforts, and stresses that any lasting solution to this problem requires that the underlying problems within Somalia itself and that other equally serious scourges affecting the livelihoods and well-being of the Somali people, in particular, the dumping of toxic waste and illegal fishing off the coast of Somalia, be effectively and swiftly addressed. The Council requests the Commission to pursue and intensify its efforts towards a comprehensive approach to the issue of piracy, based on relevant African Union decisions and the conclusions of the workshop on maritime security and safety held in Addis Ababa on 6 and 7 April 2010, including the elaboration and conclusion of an international convention on the issue of piracy within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly. The Council further requests the Commission to establish a technical working group to analyse and make an input to United Nations initiatives regarding the prosecution and imprisonment of persons responsible for acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea, with the view to making them more comprehensive. The Council also requests that the mobilization, including in terms of resources, displayed by the international community in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea, be also channelled in support of the ongoing efforts by the African Union on the mainland;

10. Notes with serious concern the recent political developments, notably the wrangling and divisions within the leadership of the Transitional Federal Institutions, the impasse in the Transitional Federal Parliament, the intervening delay in the implementation of the transitional tasks under the Transitional Federal Charter and the Djibouti process, which combined have seriously undermined the ability of the Transitional Federal Institutions to effectively discharge their responsibilities and efforts so far deployed to promote peace, security, stability and

reconciliation. The Council emphasizes that the Somalis, in particular their leaders, have the primary responsibility for the restoration of peace, security and stability in their country and strongly urges the leadership of the Transitional Federal Institutions and all other stakeholders, in the best interest of Somalia, to show selfless leadership, resolve and unity of purpose, for without such dispositions, no amount of external assistance will make it possible to effectively turn around the situation in Somalia;

11. Takes note of the appointment of a new Prime Minister designate, and calls on the Transitional Federal Institutions to move with deliberate speed to:

(i) Ensure the confirmation of the new Prime Minister by the Transitional Federal Parliament and the formation of a new Government;

(ii) Develop a road map regarding the management of the remaining transition period, with clear political, security and reconstruction priorities, in line with the Djibouti process;

(iii) Expeditiously complete the outstanding transitional tasks, including the constitutional process, which should be finalized with nationwide consultations and input from the diaspora, bearing in mind that 20 August 2011 will mark the end of the transitional period;

(iv) Continue to reach out to all peace-embracing Somalis, in a spirit of inclusiveness, bearing in mind that the Djibouti peace process remains the sole basis for peace and reconciliation in Somalia. The Council strongly urges the Transitional Federal Government and the Ahul Sunna Wal Jama'a to take the necessary steps for the speedy and full implementation of their commitments under the agreement they signed in Addis Ababa on 15 March 2010; and

(v) Urgently endorse the draft national security and stabilization plan and the Security Sector Assessment Report, in order to ensure national ownership and to enable partner support for their implementation;

12. Requests the Chairperson of the Commission, through his Special Representative for Somalia, to broaden consultations with Somaliland and Puntland, as part of the overall efforts to promote stability in those regions and further peace and reconciliation in Somalia as a whole;

13. Notes the commendable efforts made by the Commission towards the implementation of the decisions of the fifteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Kampala from 25 to 27 July 2010, and in this regard endorses the recommendations outlined in paragraphs 62 to 75 of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Somalia, which once implemented will enable the Mission, within the framework of an enhanced mandate, to better support the peace and reconciliation process, including the achievement of the remaining transitional tasks, the improvement of the security situation, to enable the Transitional Federal Institutions to discharge their responsibilities to assist in the establishment of effective governmental institutions, including security and police forces and public institutions, and to support and facilitate peacebuilding recovery and humanitarian efforts. More specifically, the Council endorses the new force strength of 20,000, with the requisite air and maritime capabilities (paragraph 68), the enhanced police component of 1,680, comprising 560 police experts on mission

and eight (8) formed police units of 140 each (paragraph 74), and an enhanced civilian component;

14. Urgently calls on Member States to provide the required military and other personnel, including police, for AMISOM to reach its newly authorized strength, as well as to contribute to the mobilization of the necessary logistical and financial resources, bearing in mind the need for Africa to demonstrate renewed determination and sense of solidarity with Somalia, one of the founding members of the Organization of African Unity;

15. Appreciates the invaluable support, including political, financial and logistical, provided so far by the international community, in particular the United Nations and other African Union partners, including the European Union and its member States, the League of Arab States, the United States and other bilateral partners, which has made ongoing African Union efforts for Somalia possible, and further calls on them and in particular the Security Council to take the decisions now required of it in line with its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, by:

(i) Endorsing the revised concept of operations and newly authorized strength of AMISOM, namely, 20,000 troops for the military component, 1,680 for the police component, comprising 560 police experts on mission and 8 formed police units of 140 each, and an enhanced civilian component;

(ii) Authorizing an enhanced support package for AMISOM, funded through United Nations-assessed contributions, on the basis of the newly authorized strength, and catering for reimbursements for contingent-owned equipment, including minor and major equipment, and the payment of troop allowances at United Nations rates, in order to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable support to the Mission. In addition, the Council requests that such support be availed to the Mission both within and outside Somalia, as required;

(iii) Imposing, in response to the request by the African Union and the region, a naval blockade and a no-fly zone over Somalia to prevent the entry of foreign elements into Somalia, as well as flights and shipments carrying weapons and ammunitions to armed groups inside Somalia which are carrying out attacks against the Transitional Federal Government, AMISOM and the Somali population. In this respect, the Council urges the Security Council to request the naval operations undertaken off the coast of Somalia and with its authorization, to provide a more direct and tangible support of AMISOM, the modalities of which will be subsequently defined between the concerned countries and organizations, on the one hand, the African Union on the other;

(iv) Ensuring the effective implementation of sanctions against all those impeding the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia, in particular through financial, material and logistical support to groups waging attacks against the Transitional Federal Government, the Somali people and AMISOM;

(v) Approaching the issue of piracy off the coast of Somalia in a holistic manner, with the view to effectively addressing its underlying causes and other equally serious threats which affect the livelihood and well-being of the Somali people, in particular illegal fishing and dumping of toxic substances and waste off the coast of Somalia;

(vii) Reaffirming its commitment to deploy a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia through the re-hatting of AMISOM and to urgently establish a timeline for this deployment;

16. Calls on the larger international community, including the League of Arab States, the European Union and its member States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the United States and other bilateral partners, to continue to provide political, financial and other support for AMISOM and the Transitional Federal Government. The Council also stresses the critical importance for continued and enhanced technical, logistical and financial support for the Transitional Federal Government security forces and police, to enable them to fully discharge their role, as well as the need for adequate support in the areas of capacity-building for other sectors of governance, including administration, early recovery and reconstruction, notably within the framework of the Istanbul Declaration;

17. Reiterates, once again, its appreciation to the Governments of Burundi and Uganda for their unwavering commitment to the advancement of the cause of peace and reconciliation in Somalia and welcomes their commitment and readiness to contribute more troops and resources to AMISOM. The Council commiserates with the Governments of the Republics of Burundi and Uganda and the families of those soldiers who have paid the ultimate price in our pursuit of peace, stability and reconciliation in Somalia;

18. Calls on other Member States to contribute troops and other personnel required for the Mission. The Council commends the troop generation efforts of the Commission and also requests the Commission to further intensify this and related efforts aimed at guaranteeing the availability of the required resources for the potential troop-contributing countries;

19. Notes with satisfaction and gratitude the notable contributions of different African Union organs and institutions, in particular the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources and AMISOM for the dedication and good work done in supporting the peace, security, reconciliation and recovery efforts in Somalia. The Council expresses deep appreciation to the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission, Ambassador Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra, the military and police leadership of the Mission and all AMISOM personnel for their dedication and commitment;

20. Requests the Chairperson of the Commission to transmit this communiqué to the United Nations Security Council to seek its support and to actively engage all African Union partners to mobilize further support for the ongoing efforts in Somalia;

21. Decides to remain seized of the matter.